

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### **Claims 1-6 (Canceled)**

**Claim 7 (New)** A coupling structure of a hood lock stay, comprising:  
a radiator core support upper member extending in a transverse direction of a motor vehicle;  
a radiator core support lower member extending under said radiator core support upper member in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle; and  
a hood lock stay extending in a vertical direction of the motor vehicle and coupling almost center portions of said radiator core support upper member and said radiator core support lower member, said hood lock stay having a hood lock secured to an upper portion thereof;  
wherein said radiator core support upper member has a cross sectional shape that comprises a wall portion and that is open on at least one part thereof so as to form an opening; and  
wherein an upper portion of said hood lock stay is disposed so as to cover said opening of said open cross sectional shape of said radiator core support upper member so that said radiator core support upper member and said hood lock stay are coupled with each other so as to form a box shape in cross section.

**Claim 8 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 7, wherein said hood lock stay is formed in said upper portion thereof with a recessed portion that is recessed in a front-to-rear direction of the motor vehicle, and wherein a wall portion of said recessed portion covers said opening of said radiator core support upper member to form said box shape.

**Claim 9 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 8, wherein said recessed portion is formed over essentially all of the vertical length of said hood lock stay.

**Claim 10 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 9, wherein:

said wall portion of said radiator core support upper member comprises at least an upper wall portion having an almost horizontal surface and a vertical wall portion adjoining said upper wall portion and extending in the transverse and vertical direction of the motor vehicle; and

a vertical upper end of said upper portion of said hood lock stay is bent so as to have an L-shape so that a flat portion having a horizontal surface is formed, said flat portion being coupled with said upper wall portion of said radiator core support upper member.

**Claim 11 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 8, wherein:

said wall portion of said radiator core support upper member comprises at least an upper wall portion having an almost horizontal surface and a vertical wall portion adjoining said upper wall portion and extending in the transverse and vertical direction of the motor vehicle; and

a vertical upper end of said upper portion of said hood lock stay is bent so as to have an L-shape so that a flat portion having a horizontal surface is formed, said flat portion being coupled with said upper wall portion of said radiator core support upper member.

**Claim 12 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 7, wherein:

said wall portion of said radiator core support upper member comprises at least an upper wall portion having an almost horizontal surface and a vertical wall portion adjoining said upper wall portion and extending in the transverse and vertical direction of the motor vehicle; and

a vertical upper end of said upper portion of said hood lock stay is bent so as to have an L-shape so that a flat portion having a horizontal surface is formed, said flat portion being coupled with said upper wall portion of said radiator core support upper member.

**Claim 13 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 7, wherein said box shape is longer in the vertical direction than in the horizontal direction.

**Claim 14 (New)** A coupling structure of a hood lock stay, comprising:

a radiator core support upper member extending in a transverse direction of a motor vehicle;

a radiator core support lower member extending under said radiator core support upper member in the transverse direction of the motor vehicle; and

a hood lock stay extending in a vertical direction of the motor vehicle and coupling central portions of said radiator core support upper member and said radiator core support lower member, said hood lock stay having a hood lock secured to an upper portion thereof;

wherein said radiator core support upper member has a cross sectional shape that comprises a wall portion and that is open on at least one part thereof so as to form an opening; and

wherein an upper portion of said hood lock stay is disposed so as to cover said opening of said open cross sectional shape of said radiator core support upper member so that said radiator core support upper member and said hood lock stay are coupled with each other so as to form a multi-wall shape having an at least partly enclosed interior space in cross section.

**Claim 15 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 14, wherein said hood lock stay is formed in said upper portion thereof with a recessed portion that is recessed in a front-to-rear direction of the motor vehicle, and wherein a wall portion of said recessed portion covers said opening of said radiator core support upper member to form said multi-wall shape.

**Claim 16 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 15, wherein said recessed portion is formed over essentially all of the vertical length of said hood lock stay.

**Claim 17 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 16, wherein:

said wall portion of said radiator core support upper member comprises at least an upper wall portion having an almost horizontal surface and a vertical wall portion adjoining said upper wall portion and extending in the transverse and vertical direction of the motor vehicle; and

a vertical upper end of said upper portion of said hood lock stay is bent so as to have an L-shape so that a flat portion having a horizontal surface is formed, said flat portion being coupled with said upper wall portion of said radiator core support upper member.

**Claim 18 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 15, wherein:

said wall portion of said radiator core support upper member comprises at least an upper wall portion having an almost horizontal surface and a vertical wall portion adjoining said upper wall portion and extending in the transverse and vertical direction of the motor vehicle; and

a vertical upper end of said upper portion of said hood lock stay is bent so as to have an L-shape so that a flat portion having a horizontal surface is formed, said flat portion being coupled with said upper wall portion of said radiator core support upper member.

**Claim 19 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 14, wherein:

said wall portion of said radiator core support upper member comprises at least an upper wall portion having an almost horizontal surface and a vertical wall portion adjoining said upper wall portion and extending in the transverse and vertical direction of the motor vehicle; and

a vertical upper end of said upper portion of said hood lock stay is bent so as to have an L-shape so that a flat portion having a horizontal surface is formed, said flat portion being coupled with said upper wall portion of said radiator core support upper member.

**Claim 20 (New)** The coupling structure of claim 14, wherein said multi-wall shape is longer in the vertical direction than in the horizontal direction.